

QUERY CONTROL FORM		RTIS USE ONLY	
Application No. <u>09/818,127</u>	Prepared by <u>ewc</u>	Tracking Number <u>05877642</u>	
Examiner-GAU <u>Friedhoff</u>	Date <u>1-19-04</u>	Week Date <u>12-15-03</u>	
<u>2832</u>	No. of queries <u>- 1 -</u>	<u>IFW</u>	

JACKET			
a. Serial No.	f. Foreign Priority	k. Print Claim(s)	p. PTO-1449
b. Applicant(s)	g. Disclaimer	l. Print Fig.	q. PTOL-85b
c. Continuing Data	h. Microfiche Appendix	m. Searched Column	r. Abstract
d. PCT	i. Title	n. PTO-270/328	s. Sheets/Figs
e. Domestic Priority	j. Claims Allowed	o. PTO-892	t. Other

SPECIFICATION	MESSAGE
a. Page Missing	<p><i>A, insert for page 8 is incomplete.</i></p> <p><i>3rd page of amendment A needed</i></p> <p><i>Please supply.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you</i></p> <p><i>ewc</i></p>
b. Text Continuity	
c. Holes through Data	
d. Other Missing Text	
e. Illegible Text	
f. Duplicate Text	
g. Brief Description	
h. Sequence Listing	
i. Appendix	
<u>j. Amendments</u>	
k. Other	
CLAIMS	
a. Claim(s) Missing	
b. Improper Dependency	
c. Duplicate Numbers	
d. Incorrect Numbering	
e. Index Disagrees	
f. Punctuation	
g. Amendments	
h. Bracketing	
i. Missing Text	
j. Duplicate Text	
k. Other	
	RESPONSE
	<p><i>Everything is fine on the Amendment.</i></p> <p><i>Page 3rd was not missing.</i></p> <p><i>LL</i> <i>5/13/04</i></p>
	initials
	initials

PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Mike Blossfeld et al.  
Serial No. : 09/818,127  
Filing Date : March 27, 2001  
For : MULTI-STAGE PUSHBUTTON  
SWITCH APPARATUS  
Group Art Unit : 2832  
Examiner : N. Nguyen  
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(TE)4704

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2001,  
please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8,  
line 12, and ending on page 9, line 2, with the following  
rewritten paragraph:

The apparatus 10 further includes a third  
membrane 60. The third membrane 60 has a portion  
secured to an upper surface of the depressible  
member 20 as shown in the drawings. The third

membrane has a surface portion 24 that is engaged by the operator to apply force to depress the depressible member 20. The third membrane 60 encloses the depressible member 20 and the first and second membranes 30, 40 from environmental conditions. The membrane 60 is secured to the mounting surface 50. The third membrane 60 may be a seal pad constructed of a suitable elastomer such as rubber. The third membrane 60 provides minimal resistance to depression of the depressible member 20, and thus a minimal force acting to return the depressible member 20, to the position of Fig. 1.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 6, as follows:

6. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said second membrane is at least partially metal and engages said electrical switch contact to complete a circuit.

Serial No. 09/818,127

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been rejected as anticipated by Steiner, GB 2,100,517A. Claim 3 has been rejected as unpatentable over Steiner in view of DeVolpi, US 5,912,612. Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected as unpatentable over Steiner in view of Sadamori et al., US 5,924,555. The Specification and claim 6 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claim 1 recites the first membrane (30) initially acting alone and then acting simultaneously with the second membrane (40). The flexible sheet (32) of Steiner acts only simultaneously with conical portion (15) (Fig. 2). Whenever the flexible sheet (32) is deflected, the conical portion (15) is necessarily also deflected due to both elements (15 and 32) being fixed to the pushbutton (18). It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 recites a third membrane (60) enclosing the first and second membranes (30, 40). Steiner does not disclose this feature (Office Action, paragraph 5). DeVolpi discloses a cover (10) around a membrane switch (30) and a rigid backer surface (32) (Fig. 9). The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to use the cover (10) of DeVolpi with the switch of Steiner "for the purpose of flexibility to return the switch to the original position when the external force is removed" (Office Action, paragraph 5). The conical portion (15) of Steiner acts to return the pushbutton (18) to its original position (Steiner, page 1, lines 103-107). Thus,